Preschool–Grade 6

# The Way, the Truth, and the Life

Sunday School Lesson for Preteens (Ages 11–12), 45–60 minutes

**Main point:** Jesus is not one way among many. He is the way, the truth, and the life, and no one comes to God but by Him, so we can trust Him with every troubled thought.
**Bible passage:** John 13:33–14:6. Students read it out loud themselves.
**Memory verse:** "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." *John 14:6 (KJV)* and "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." *Acts 4:12 (KJV)*
**You need:** a Bible for each student, paper or a notebook and a pen for each student, a whiteboard and a marker, and one take-home sheet for each student.
**Before class:** read John 13–14 and Acts 4:12. Write both memory verses on the board. Decide who reads which verses.

## 1. Opening game: Spot the Fake (5–10 minutes)

Read three statements at a time; students vote on which one is false. Round 1: The sun rises in the east. Water boils at 212 degrees Fahrenheit at sea level. Spiders have six legs. *(Fake: spiders have eight.)* Round 2: A compass needle points north. Every road leads to the same place. Maps can be out of date. *(Fake: roads lead to different places.)* Ask: *How do you know what's true when people say different things? What happens if you follow directions that aren't true?* Say: "Tonight's passage is about the way, and about the truth."

## 2. Bible story: Students Read It (15 minutes)

Set the scene: it was Jesus' last night with His disciples before the cross. He knew His hour had come (John 13:1), they had eaten supper (13:2, 13:4), and it was night (13:30).
**Read out loud: John 13:33–38.** Old words in this passage:

- **whither** (13:33, 36): where; **thou canst not** (13:36): you cannot
- **for thy sake** (13:37): for you; **thrice** (13:38): three times

**Read out loud: John 14:1–6.** Old words in this passage:

- **troubled** (14:1): stirred up, worried and afraid
- **mansions** (14:2): dwelling places, places to live
- **if it were not so, I would have told you** (14:2): Jesus would never let them believe something untrue
- **prepare** (14:2): make ready; **receive you unto myself** (14:3): take you to be with Me
- **saith** (14:5–6): said; **cometh** (14:6): comes; **but by me** (14:6): except through Me


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Talk it through: Jesus told His disciples He was going away, and Peter was ready to "lay down my life for thy sake" (13:37). Jesus answered with the hard news that Peter would deny Him three times (13:38). Right after that, Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled" (14:1). Then Thomas asked the honest question, "how can we know the way?" (14:5), and Jesus answered with Himself: "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (14:6).

## 3. Questions to ask (15 minutes)

1. Peter had just heard he would deny Jesus (13:38), and the next words are "Let not your heart be troubled" (14:1). What does that show about how Jesus treats people who will fail?
2. Thomas said, "we know not." Is it wrong to admit you don't understand something about God? What did Thomas get by asking?
3. Jesus said "I am the way," not "I will show you a way." Why does it matter that the way is a Person and not a set of rules?
4. "If it were not so, I would have told you" (14:2). How does knowing Jesus never lies change how you hear His promises?
5. Many people today say every road leads to God. How do John 14:6 and Acts 4:12 answer that? How can you say this kindly to a friend?
6. After Jesus rose, Thomas saw Him and said, "My Lord and my God" (John 20:28). What did Thomas finally understand about who Jesus is?

## 4. Memory verse (5 minutes)

Old words in Acts 4:12: **neither is there salvation in any other** means no one else can save us; **none other name under heaven** means there is no other name anywhere; **whereby** means by which. Peter said this about "the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth" (Acts 4:10).
Read both verses together. Then students cover one phrase at a time and quiz a partner. Say John 14:6 this week; keep working on Acts 4:12 next week too.


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## 5. What this means for us (5–10 minutes)

Say: "Jesus said no one comes to God but by Him, and Peter said there is no other name whereby we must be saved. So how do we come to God by Jesus and His name? God loves you, and 'all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, God who came as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). 'Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures' (1 Corinthians 15:3–4, KJV). We obey the gospel the way Peter preached it: 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) We **repent**, turning from sin, and our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are buried with Jesus by baptism in His name, all the way under the water. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we rise to walk in newness of life, a brand-new life (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). And God fills us with the Holy Ghost, and we speak with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance, which means as He gives the words (Acts 2:4). Jesus called this being born of water and of the Spirit (John 3:5)."
*Pray with the students, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.*

## 6. Activity: Journal (10 minutes)

Each student writes privately. No one has to share. Write these three prompts on the board:

1. What is troubling my heart right now? Write it down and give it to Jesus in prayer (John 14:1).
2. What question about God would I ask Jesus, like Thomas did?
3. Who is one friend I could kindly tell that Jesus is the way? What would I say?
   If there is time, invite a few volunteers to share one sentence.

**This week:** each time you feel worried, say John 14:1 and pray. Read John 14 at home and underline every promise Jesus makes.

## 7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life, and that there is no other name whereby we must be saved. Calm our troubled hearts, help us believe every word You say, and give us courage to tell our friends about You kindly. Thank You that Jesus is coming again. In Jesus' name, amen."

**If a student asks where Jesus was going:** to the cross, the grave and the resurrection, and then back up to heaven (John 13:1; Acts 1:11). He promised, "I will come again" (John 14:3), and "so shall we ever be with the Lord" (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

**If a student talks about someone who has died:** listen kindly and read John 14:1 together. Let their parents and pastor answer questions about that person.


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